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INFO RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 8430
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RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 5157
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EZ1:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ROME 23952

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL LY IT
SUBJECT: QADHAFI'S SPEECH IN MISURATA
REF: ROME 23861

1. (LOU) ITALIAN DAILIES OF 10/8 GIVE COVERAGE TO
LIBYAN LEADER QADHAFI'S OCT. 7 SPEECH ON THE 14TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE EXPULSION OF ITALIAN RESIDENTS IN LIBYA.
FOLLOWING IS A PRECIS OF KEY REMARKS ON ITALIO-LIBYAN
RELATIONS. WE SURMISE THE FULL TEXT WILL BE CARRIED ON
FBIS.

-- THE NEWLY INSTALLED SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN ITALY
SHOULD PAY DOUBLE IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF
DAMAGES COMMITTED AGAINST THE LIBYAN PEOPLE DURING THE
COLONIAL PERIOD. THIS WOULD OPEN A NEW CHAPTER IN BI-
LATERAL RELATIONS.

-- AS OF 1983, ITALY HAS NEVER ADMITTED ITS RESPONSI-
BILITIES FOR THE PAST.

-- TWICE THE UNITED NATIONS HAS APPROVED RESOLUTIONS
RECOGNIZING THE JUSTICE OF OUR CLAIMS.

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-- "IF WE DON'T ARRIVE AT AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOOD (SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT) ALONG THE LINES TRACED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, FAMILIES THAT HAVE LOST HUMAN LIVES AND GOODS CAN ACT IN THE MANNER THEY SEE FIT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FROM ITALY THAT WHICH IS THEIR DUE. WE HOPE THINGS WON'T COME TO THIS POINT. STILL FROM THIS DAY ON, AN OPEN FILE EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND WE WILL DO ALL POSSIBLE TO OBLIGE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO PAY A PRICE."

2. (LOU) THE NEWSPAPERS JUDGE QADHAFI'S TONE PARTICULARLY HARD AND NOTE THAT HIS SPEECH WAS GIVEN IN MISURATA, WHERE AN IMPORTANT BATTLE TOOK PLACE IN 1923 BETWEEN LIBYANS AND ITALIANS. THE PRESS ALSO NOTES THAT QADHAFI IS CLAIMING APPROXIMATELY 40 BILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGES AND THAT THIS CLAIM, ALONG WITH LIBYAN UNHAPPINESS OVER THE PARTICIPATION OF ITALIAN TROOPS IN THE LEBANESE MNF, CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITALY AND THE FORTHCOMING INSTALLATION OF CRUISE MISSILES IN SICILY, ADD FLAMES TO QADHAFI'S FIRE.

3. (CONF) NEWSPAPERS REPORT, AND MFA CONFIRMS, THAT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN LIBYA WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE SPEECH. MFA IS AWAITING AMBASSADOR QUARONI'S ANALYSIS OF THE SPEECH AND WILL PROVIDE US WITH A READOUT NEXT WEEK. RABB

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TEXT=LIBYA (MUAMMAR (QADHAFI)) BF

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